

For Immediate Release

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New KanCare Ombudsman Appointed

TOPEKA—Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services Secretary Shawn Sullivan announced today the appointment of attorney James Bart, of Lawrence, to serve as KanCare Ombudsman for the State of Kansas.

KanCare is Kansas' innovative new system to provide Medicaid services to consumers in an integrated care model through three new health plans, or managed care organizations (MCOs) , beginning January 2013.



Mr. Bart will be responsible for assisting consumers with unresolved access, service and benefit problems, in particular individuals participating in a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver program or those receiving other long-term care services through KanCare.

"Mr. Bart has the ideal background and experience to help KanCare consumers and assist them in reaching successful, fair resolutions of any problems they might have with the health plans and their providers," Secretary Sullivan said. "They will find him to be a strong, effective, caring ally in getting their problems addressed promptly and satisfactorily."

Mr. Bart, a graduate of Creighton University School of Law, also holds a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management from the University of Iowa. He has broad experience in advocacy and non-profit work. Mr. Bart currently serves on the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities as a parent representative, is a past vice-chair of the Council and was previously leader of the Council's executive committee. He also is a former member of the ARC of Douglas County, which provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in Douglas, Jefferson, Osage and Franklin counties. In that capacity, he was active in disability supports and training projects. Mr. Bart has completed the Kansas Council of Developmental Disabilities' in-depth advocacy training in community-based outreach and graduate network development. He is also a graduate of "Special Education Law Boot Camp," conducted by Wrightslaw.

Mr. Bart's Office of KanCare Ombudsman will be located in the New England Building, 503 S. Kansas Avenue in Topeka. The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services will provide that office with administrative and other services.